

PATENT

App. Ser. No.: 10/039,017

Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010189US1

PS Ref. No.: IBMK10189

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 13, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 13, 2006. Applicant submits this response to place the application in condition for allowance. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-15, 18-29 and 31-33 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 15 and 18-33 are canceled. Claims 1-7 and 9-14 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claims 8 and 15, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 10-14, 18-29, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In view of the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claims 8 and 15, respectively, and claims 18-33 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant believes the rejections are no longer valid and request withdrawal of the rejections. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the canceled claims in continuation applications and traverse the rejections on the merits. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

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Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, as stated above, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, or the undersigned attorney to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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